GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2950
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2015
Wi-Fi Services
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target of providing free Wi-Fi services to 25 cities has been achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, city-wise along with the fund allocated for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government plans to extend the facility to other cities, Government educational institutions, tourist locations and also in rural areas and if so, the details thereof and the timeline for the same;

(d) whether the BSNL has signed an agreement with Airport Authority of India for providing Wi-Fi facilities in all the airports;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the airports provided with such facilities so far; and

(f) whether the Government also proposes to provide Balloon powered broadband facilities in some parts of the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for 2015-16, BSNL was to provide 263 Wi-Fi Hotspots in 26 cities. BSNL has reported that target has been achieved in the Month of August, 2015. City-wise details of wi-fi services being provided by BSNL as on date are at Annexure-I.

BSNL is providing free Wi-Fi services for first 15 minutes in a month for the same mobile number. After free usage a customer can use the Wi-Fi service on paid basis. BSNL is setting up Wi-Fi Hotspots on PAN India basis (except Delhi & Mumbai) on revenue share basis. The selected vendor is setting up Wi-Fi hotspots and BSNL is only providing backhaul bandwidth connectivity.

(c) BSNL has reported that it is providing Wi-Fi facility in the villages where Hon'ble Members of Parliaments are supporting Wi-Fi facility provisioning through their MPLAD funds. BSNL is also providing Wi-Fi services at the selected locations/Sites including educational institutions, tourist locations, monuments etc, which are financially viable and technically feasible.

Wi-fi services have already commenced at Taj Mahal (Agra), Sarnath, Assi Ghat (Varanasi), Jagannath Temple (Puri), Konark Temple, Khajuraho, Thanjavur, Brihadeeswara, Trimbakeshwar Temple (Nasik) Hussain Sagar Lake, Charminar (Hyderabad) through BSNL.

(d) & (e) No. However, Google India has approached Department of Electronics & Information Technology (Deity) to conduct pilot test of Project Loon in India.